

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5     1. A filter material for the preparation of filter pouches  
and filter bags for infusion beverages, characterized in that  
said filter material comprises a filter base material and a  
superabsorber material consisting of fibers, wherein the  
amount of said superabsorber fibers is from about 1 to about  
70% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter  
10 material.
2. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized  
in that the area weight of said filter material is from about  
8 to about 90 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
- 15 3. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized  
in that the area weight of said filter material is from about  
10 to about 25 g/m<sup>2</sup>.
- 20 4. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized  
in that said the filter base material is formed of natural  
fibers.
- 25 5. The filter material according to claim 4, wherein the  
natural fibers are selected from conifer cellulose,  
deciduous wood cellulose and abaca fibers.
6. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized  
in that said filter material comprises two layers,  
a first layer which comprises natural fibers and the  
superabsorber fibers, and  
30       a second layer which comprises sealable polymer fibers,  
and wherein said second layer is coated onto said first  
layer.
- 35 7. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized  
in that said filter material comprises superabsorber fibers

in an amount from about 2 to about 30% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter material.

8. The filter material according to claim 6, characterized

5 in that said filter material comprises superabsorber fibers in an amount from about 2 to about 30% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter material.

9. The filter material according to claim 1, characterized  
10 in that said filter material comprises superabsorber fibers in an amount from about 3 to about 10% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter material.

10. The filter material according to claim 6, characterized  
15 in that said filter material comprises superabsorber fibers in an amount from about 3 to about 10% by weight relative to the area weight of the filter material.

11. A process for preparing a filter material according to  
claim 1, comprising incorporating superabsorber fibers into  
20 the filter base material in the wet section of a paper  
machine, wherein the amount of said superabsorber fibers is  
from about 1 to about 70% by weight.

12. A process according to claim 11, characterized in that  
the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base  
25 material by latex or other chemical binders.

13. A process according to claim 11, characterized in that  
the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base  
material by mechanical strengthening.

30 14. A process according to claim 11, characterized in that  
the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base  
material by hydrodynamic strengthening.

15. A process according to claim 11, characterized in that  
35 the superabsorber fibers comprise a (meth)acrylate copolymer.

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16. A process according to claim 15, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers comprise a cross-linked acrylate copolymer, optionally in salt form.
- 5 17. A process for preparing a filter material according to claim 6, comprising incorporating superabsorber fibers into the filter base material in the wet section of a paper machine, wherein the amount of said superabsorber fibers is from about 1 to about 70% by weight.
- 10 18. A process according to claim 17, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base material by latex or other chemical binders.
- 15 19. A process according to claim 17, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base material by mechanical strengthening.
- 20 20. A process according to claim 17, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers are bound to the filter base material by hydrodynamic strengthening.
21. A process according to claim 17, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers comprise a (meth)acrylate copolymer.
22. A process according to claim 21, characterized in that the superabsorber fibers comprise a cross-linked acrylate copolymer, optionally in salt form.

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